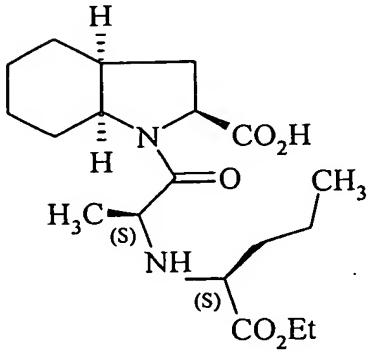
CLAIMS

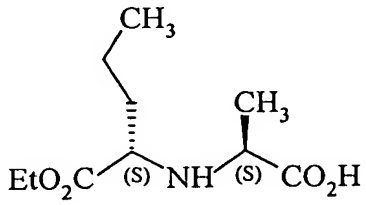
1. Process for the synthesis of the compounds of formula (I) :



(I)

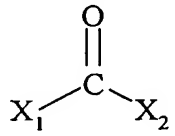
and its pharmaceutically acceptable salts,

characterised in that the compound of formula (II) :



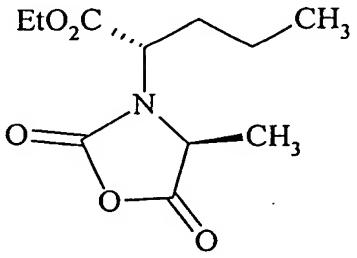
(II)

is reacted with a compound of formula (III) :



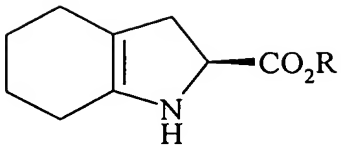
(III)

wherein X_1 and X_2, which may be identical or different, each represents a leaving group, to yield the compound of formula (IV) :



(IV)

which is reacted with a compound of formula (V) :

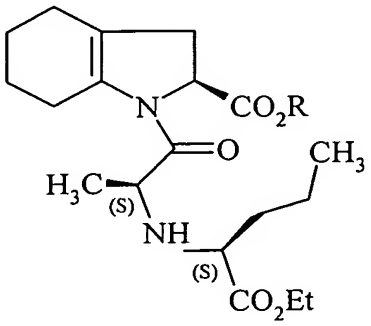


(V)

wherein R represents a hydrogen atom or a benzyl or linear or branched (C_1-C_6)alkyl group,

or an addition salt thereof with a mineral or organic acid,

to yield, after isolation, a compound of formula (VI) :



(VI)

wherein R is as defined hereinbefore,

which is hydrogenated in the presence of a catalyst such as, for example, palladium, platinum, rhodium or nickel,

under a hydrogen pressure of from 1 to 30 bars, to yield, after deprotection where necessary of the acid function, perindopril of formula (I) which is converted, if desired, to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt such as the tert-butylamine salt.

2. Synthesis process according to claim 1, characterised in that the hydrogen pressure in the hydrogenation reaction is from 1 to 10 bars.

3. Synthesis process according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterised in that X_1 and X_2 each represent a chlorine atom or an imidazolyl or trichloromethoxy group.

4. Process according to any one of claims 1 to 3 for the synthesis of perindopril in the form of its tert-butylamine salt.